

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086236

15

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 DPW-01 IO-12 SR-02 ORM-03 /145 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ P: STAFF: PP

5/7/73 EXT 22538

APPROVED BY EA/ P: AHROSEN

----- 128855

R 072107 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL CAN THO

UNCLAS STATE 086236

E.. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, US, XC

SUBJECT: MAY 7 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 STATE 086236

1. POST'S LIPPMAN REPORTS GVN SEES NO POL SETTLEMENT WITH PRG FOR MONTHS AND IS GOING AHEAD WITH NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THIS SUMMER WITHOUT VC PARTICIPATION. GVN HOLDS THAT ALL EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS REMAIN INTACT PENDING POL SETTLEMENT. LAST WEEK SENATE OVERRODE RESTRICTIVE GOVERNMENT- PROPOSED GROUND RULES FOR ELECTIONS BUT MUCH MANEUVERING REMAINS AHEAD. SENATE SOURCES BELIEVE THIEU WON'T OPPOSE LIBERALIZED RULES BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT ANOTHER ONE-PARTY ELECTION BUT WANTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RVN CAN HOLD VALID, CONTESTED ELECTION. SAIGON BUBBLING WITH POLITICAL RUMORS, INCLUDING REPORTS MINH AND KY TRYING WORK OUT POLICY FOR DEVELOPING THIRD FORCE STRENGTH; THIEU IS ABOUT TO DECENTRALIZE ADMINISTRATION AND MAY RESHUFFLE CABINET (POST, NYT).

2. TRAN NGOC CHAU SAID TO HAVE ASKED THIEU FOR RELEASE IN SVN RATHER THAN TO VC. OFFICIAL SAIGON SOURCES SAY CHAU WILL BE GIVEN CHOICE OF SERVING OUT REMAINING FIVE YEARS OF SENTENCE OR BE HANDED OVER TO VC (WP).

3. ICCS SOURCES SAY ANOTHER CHOPPER FIRED UPON OVER CONTESTED AREA IN DELTA; EXPECTED TO BRING STRONG CANADIAN REACTION. INCIDENTS AND RESULTING RESTRICTIONS IN ICCS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT HAVE CURTAILED ICCS EFFECTIVENESS AS OBSERVATION FORCE. MEANWHILE, FIGHTING ROSE TO THREE- WEEK HIGH, ESPECIALLY WEST OF HUE. 100- MILE ALL- WEATHER COMMUNIST ROAD FROM SEPONE TO ASHAU VALLEY NOW IMPROVED, AND ASHAU BASE BUILT UP BY NVA (WP, NYT).

4. TREASTER DESCRIBES REPORTED USE OF THOUSANDS OF NVN LABORERS IN NW PART OF SVN TO CONSTRUCT ROADS AND AIRFIELDS IN WHAT US AND GVN OFFICIALS CONSIDER VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT. BUILD- UP SEEN AS INDICATION MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN OFFING. MAJOR ALL- WEATHER HIGHWAY COMPLETED FROM LAOS THROUGH ASHAU VALLEY EASTWARD TO NEAR DA NANG. KHE SANH SAID TO BE UNDER RECONSTRUCTION AS MAJOR NVA BASE, INCLUDING REBUILDING OF AIR STRIPS (SAID TO BE TOO SHORT FOR REGULAR JET OPS).

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5. ARVN FIRST DIVISION COMMANDER GEN. THAN ADOPTS GUERRILLA TACTICS TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF WAR WITHOUT AMERICANS AND CHOPPERS. FIVE- MAN TEAMS REPLACE 500- MAN BATTALIONS, FIGHTING COMMUNISTS WITH THEIR OWN TACTICS. AMERICAN OBSERVER IMPRESSED (NYT).

6. ST. L. P- D'S DUDMAN, IN WASHINGTON, CITES " RESPONSIBLE

CHINESE SOURCES" AS SAYING SIHANOUK IS ONLY KEY TO
PEACE IN CAMBODIA, THUS DIFFERING WITH PREDOMINANT VIEW
OF US OFFICIALS. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, HIS
CHINESE SOURCES SCOFF AT US EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE MOVE-
MENT TOWARD C- F IN CAMBODIA BY SUSPENDING NVN MINE-
SWEEPING AND BREAKING OFF JEC DISCUSSIONS.

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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To: BANGKOK
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JEC PARIS
LONDON
PARIS
PHNOM PENH
SAIGON

SEOUL
VIENTIANE
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